Land acquired for Indo-Petrochemicals Ltd. project, at Nagothane, Maharashtra

1331. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given written assurances to the farmers whose land was acquired for Indo-Petrochemical Ltd. project at Negothane in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of farmers yet to be provided with permanent employment; and

(d) whether Government propose to start technical training programme for the project affected farmers to enhance their prospect in employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL), had agreed to provide employment to 618 project affected persons (PAPs) from 9 villages. 611 have already been provided employment. 20 more are expected to join after attaining the minimum required age/on completion of necessary formalities.

(d) The State Government had set up an institute at Nagothane in 1988 and ran training programmes for 2 years to train the local persons. However, due to poor responses from the PAPs, the institute has discontinued the training programmes.

Agencies selling chemicals and fertilizers in Maharashtra

1332. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agencies selling chemicals and fertilisers in Maharashtra as on date;

(b) the number of agencies working under co-operative societies; and

(c) the details of the programme launched for making the distribution of these items more effective with a view to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) No centralised record is kept of agencies selling chemicals.

As regards agencies selling fertilisers in Maharashtra, the information available with the State Government is that there are 20,604 fertiliser sale points in the State of these, 4,840 points are in the cooperative sector.

(c) Government has provided a transport subsidy for the movement of controlled fertilisers from the factories/ ports to the block level.

With a view to improving fertiliser availability and promoting the sale of fertilisers through small dealers, the Government of India have been encouraging the State Governments to exempt the following categories of retail dealers from obtaining a certificate of registration:

(i) Dealers whose stock of all fertilisers does not exceed 10 tonnes at any time.

(ii) Dealers selling fertilisers in small packages upto 5 kgs.

Besides, the State Governments have been advised to allow registered dealers to sell fertilisers through mobile vans.

Production of Muriate of Potash

1333. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total indigenous production of Muriate of Potash vis-a-vis the total consumption;

(b) whether it is fact that the gap is filled by monopoly import; if so, the reasons thereof;